

Parent Engagement Newsletter



Making Education Meaningful



**Dr. John D. Barge,
State School Superintendent**

During my conversations and meetings there is one question that is often raised: how do we make education more meaningful for our students? Recently, Education Week released the findings of their 17th annual *Quality Counts* survey, which grades all states on key education indicators. I am pleased to share that Georgia ranked 7th in the nation for the second straight

year and received a perfect score for the indicator on Transition and Alignment, which includes Early Childhood Education and College Readiness. While it is important to grow in our successes, there is no doubt that Georgia is committed to providing meaningful and quality education from early childhood through college and career preparation.

It is an absolute thrill to see schools all over the state implement wonderful and innovative strategies and practices that engage parents and students in the learning process. As we open a new chapter with the College and Career Ready Performance Index, I am confident that we will see more evidence of how

schools and teachers continue to build up our students to reach new heights.

Last of all, I invite all parents to join us in making education more meaningful for our students by being involved and taking an active role in your child's education. This is a very critical time of year as we steer our students successfully across the finish line of another school year. I look forward to sharing more good news with you about the hard work and accomplishments of all students in Georgia!

Sincerely,

State School Superintendent

STAY TUNED...

Have you heard? Planning for the 2014 Family Engagement Conference is underway! Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to learn new ideas and hear what is happening across the state to support family engagement in our schools. Look for more details soon about registration and dates for the 2014 Family Engagement Conference.



Best GET INVOLVED Parent Moments...



I stayed at Pre-K with my twins and watched them complete their lesson with their teacher. At playtime, it seemed like all the children wanted to serve me lunch, so they played waiter and waitress and brought me plate after plate with drinks. Now the twins want me to come back every day!

- Lisa Epps, McIntosh Elementary School

The new technology amazes me. I am able to stay in touch with my two daughters, as well as with their teachers almost every day. I have a great partnership with Rossville Middle School. The staff and teachers make me feel at home.

- Laura McNabb, Rossville Middle School

I was able to attend every activity that involved the parents at Russell Elementary, one each month. It was fun to be there often enough to get to know the students and how our son was interacting with his new friends. I was able to go in and help with some presentations to several



grades. I love being able to be at school often enough to know who each friend is when our son references them in stories about his day.

- Anonymous Parent, Russell Elementary School

My husband and I attended a literary breakfast at my daughter's school. We all ate breakfast together and had a good conversation, just like we do at home. It really got us connected and involved when we all shared together one of the most important meals of the day at school.

- Lorena Lean, Riverside Primary School

Parents, we want to hear from you! Do you have a favorite parent involvement moment to share from this school year? Send in your moment and make sure to include details of the event including what happened, who was involved and why it was your best GET INVOLVED MOMENT!

The 2013 Parent Leadership Awards

Volume 3, Issue 3, Spring 2013

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) and the Georgia Parent Teacher Association (GA PTA) created the Parent Leadership Award to recognize parents across the state who utilize their skills and talents to strengthen our schools and positively impact the lives of our children. The award also hopes to inspire all parents to use their unique talents, no matter how big or small, to lead the way in building positive outcomes for all children.

The award recognizes the many skills and talents of Georgia's parents, particularly as they exhibit their

leadership through any or all of the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

Winners of the Parent Leadership Award are parents or caregivers who have contributed to the school community in a way that is bigger and beyond themselves. Parent leaders are nominated every November during Georgia's Parent Engagement Month by Georgia's public school personnel.

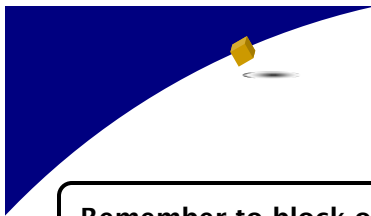
Congratulations to the following nominees on receiving the 2013 Parent Leadership Award:

- ▶ **Tilwana Anderson**, Partee Elementary School, Gwinnett County Schools
- ▶ **Electria Barnes**, Sanders Elementary School, Cobb County Schools
- ▶ **Debra Mainor**, Hillcrest Elementary School, Dublin City Schools
- ▶ **Kellie Martin**, Elcan-King Elementary School, Decatur City Schools
- ▶ **Capucine Pansy**, Eastside Elementary School, Douglas County Schools
- ▶ **States Wing**, Sharon Elementary School, Forsyth County Schools

2013 Georgia Parent Leadership Awards



Use this link <http://tinyurl.com/a8t7smj> to read more about how these amazing individuals made a difference in their schools!



Remember to block off these important dates!

Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day
March 2, 2013

Public School Volunteer Week
April 14–20, 2013

National TV Turnoff Week
April 28–May 4, 2013

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month
May, 2013

National Teacher's Day
May 7, 2013

National Physical Education & Sport Week
May 6–12, 2013

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Vision Statement

The Parent Engagement Program believes that parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement.

Calling All Parents!

Have an idea to contribute to the newsletter? Send your parent involvement ideas and articles to us through your **Parent Involvement Coordinator** or e-mail us directly. If your idea or article is published, your name will appear in the newsletter!

Have a Question?

AskDOE
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We're on the Web!

<http://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/AskDOE/Pages/Parents.aspx>
<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Engagement-Program.aspx>